

DURHAM CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine estimates that more than 19 percent of Durham County residents, or 45,000 people, are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Institute estimates that expanding Medicaid would extend guaranteed health coverage to 33,600 low-income people in Durham County; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services estimated that accepting Medicaid expansion would extend insurance coverage to more than 500,000 North Carolinians and save the state approximately \$65 million over 8 years; and

WHEREAS, the private economic forecasting company Regional Economic Models, Inc. projects that expanding Medicaid would create or save more than 25,000 jobs by 2016; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Actuaries estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will increase private insurance premiums by more than 2 percent; and

WHEREAS, tax firm Jackson Hewitt estimates that refusing Medicaid expansion will cost North Carolina employers between \$80 million and \$120 million in fees once the employer mandate is fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, the *New England Journal of Medicine* states that the expansion of Medicaid coverage may reduce mortality among adults; and

WHEREAS, *Health Affairs* states that gains in access to care, financial well-being, physical and mental health, and longevity would be expected with Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Cone Health system estimates that the cost of treating uninsured patients in 2013 exceeded \$63.4 million; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provides federal funding for states to expand Medicaid to all citizens earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, since 2007 North Carolina's Medicaid program, working through Community Care of North Carolina, has experienced the slowest rate of annual growth in the nation.

WHEREAS, the Durham City Council believes all residents should have access to quality, affordable health coverage;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURHAM THAT:

- 1) The City Council urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.
- 2) This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage, and shall be shared with the members of Durham's General Assembly delegation.